Setting up of Feb-City

1355. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up a Feb-City in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering Hyderabad as a possible location for the proposed Fab-City;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 16.2.2006 between M/s SemIndia Inc. and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishing a FAB city in Hyderabad.

(e) Does not arise.

Overseas acquisition by MTNL

1356. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL propose to acquire a stake in Chinese telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL is also looking for such a venture in African and other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL is exploring the possibilities of investment in Chinese telecom market. Various telecom technologies/companies are planned to be considered for this purpose so that a decision for acquiring stake can be taken.